Lyle Neff

STARBOTTLE FOR THE PLAINTIFF

An opera in three scenes

Libretto by the composer adapted from a story by Bret Harte

March 25, 1981

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SCENE III

THE COURTROOM, MINUTES BEFORE THE TRIAL, THREE WEEKS LATER. THE JUDGE'S BENCH IS ON ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE, WITH A DOOR TO THE CHAMBERS. THE PUBLIC

DOOR IS OPPOSITE, AND THE JURY BOX IS NEAR THE BENCH ON THE BACK WALL. AN AISLE RUNS BETWEEN THE ROWS OF SEATS AND ENDS WITH A GATE BEHIND THE LAWYERS' TABLES.

THE WITNESS STAND IS ON THE AUDIENCE SIDE OF THE BENCH.

(CHORUS I, THE NON-CHURCHGOERS, ARE SEATED OR STANDING IN VARIOUS POSITIONS AROUND THE ROOM. SOME SPECTATORS ARE PEEKING THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOWS.)

























































































































